

# OCCASIONAL PAPERS

## Museum of Texas Tech University

NUMBER 205

05 February 2001

### RECORDS OF TWO SMALL MAMMALS FROM SOUTH TEXAS

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Collecting efforts during the winter and summer of 1997 (January, February, and June) yielded specimens of *Notiosorex crawfordi* and *Baiomys taylori* from Dimmit and LaSalle Counties, Texas. The specimens of *Notiosorex* represent the first records of these species from Dimmit and LaSalle counties and the specimen of *Baiomys* is the first record from Dimmit County.

#### *Notiosorex crawfordi*

Desert Shrew

The desert shrew, *Notiosorex crawfordi*, is known from the western two-thirds and portions of northern-central and southern Texas. Typically, this species occupy the more arid southwestern parts of the state in a wide variety of habitats (Davis and Schmidly, 1994). Eleven specimens were captured at the Chaparral Wildlife Management Area (three from Dimmit Co. and eight from LaSalle Co.) from January 1, 1997 to February 9, 1997. Additionally, this large collection of desert shrews from a single location is noteworthy given the rarity of this species in scientific collections. These specimens were captured in a mesquite-acacia thorn woodland/savanna (Figs. 1 and 2) by the use of pitfall traps and drift fences.

Voucher specimens and skin and skull (TTU 80965, 80966, 80967, 80968, 80969, 80970, 80804,

80805, 80806, 80807) and frozen tissues (TK 84583, 84584, 84585, 84586, 84587, 84588, 84589, 84629, 84630, 84631, 84632) are deposited in the Collection of Recent Mammals in the Natural Science Research Laboratory, Museum of Texas Tech University.

#### *Baiomys taylori*

Northern Pygmy Mouse

In Texas, the Northern Pygmy Mouse is continuously extending its range northward and eastward by invading the oak-hickory association, the blackland prairies, the crosstimbers, rolling plains, and the high plains. *Baiomys taylori* prefers a variety of grassland habitats ranging from dense grassy areas to where grass is relatively sparse (Davis and Schmidly, 1994). On June 24, 1997 and June 26, 1997 two specimens of *Baiomys taylori* were collected at the Chaparral Wildlife Management Area (one from Dimmit Co. and one from LaSalle Co.). These specimens were collected from mesquite-acacia thorn woodland/savanna (Figs. 1 and 2). Voucher materials, skin, and skeleton (TTU 80954, 80955) and frozen tissues (TK 84758, 84759) were deposited in the Collection of Recent Mammals in the Natural Science Research Laboratory, Museum of Texas Tech University.



Figure 1. Photograph of a typical mesquite-acacia thorn woodland on the Chaparral Wildlife Management Area.



Figure 2. Photograph of a typical mesquite savanna on the Chaparral Wildlife Management Area.

#### ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

We would like to thank the 1999 Field Methods class for assistance in collecting specimens. Funding for the field work was supported by the state of Texas involving a collaboration among the Texas Parks and

Wildlife Department, U.S. Geological Survey Cooperative Research Unit, and the Natural Science Research Laboratory, Museum of Texas Tech University.

#### LITERATURE CITED

Davis, W. B. and D. J. Schmidly. 1994. The mammals of Texas. Texas Parks and Wildlife Department, Austin. 338 pp.

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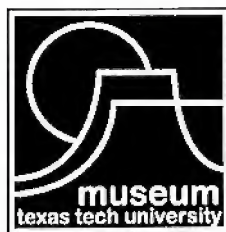
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### **PUBLICATIONS OF THE MUSEUM OF TEXAS TECH UNIVERSITY**

It was through the efforts of Horn Professor J Knox Jones, as director of Academic Publications, that Texas Tech University initiated several publications series including the Occasional Papers of the Museum. This and future editions in the series are a memorial to his dedication to excellence in academic publications. Professor Jones enjoyed editing scientific publications and served the scientific community as an editor for the Journal of Mammalogy, Evolution, The Texas Journal of Science, Occasional Papers of the Museum, and Special Publications of the Museum. It is with special fondness that we remember Dr. J Knox Jones.

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**ISSN 0149-175X**

*Museum of Texas Tech University, Lubbock, TX 79409-3191*